

Timber

3 messages



Wed, Dec 30, 2009 at 2:35 PM

Dear friends:

As to my slice of the US Mint beam you indicated that the US Mint has on loan some examples of the wood. Do you think they have any information about the variety of the wood or any data? Maybe it could be in the loan file if the Mint people can find it. Who is the lender?

I contacted a friend in Philadelphia and he told me that Winterthur has a specialized department with large quantities of microscopic samples relating to the study of wood. He is going to ask promptly for the name of the person to contact after the first of the year. He indicates that Winterthur probably would be delighted to take a microscopic sample of my piece particularly because its date of use and its historical importance. He felt there would be no expense. What do you think about this situation?

I hope we are barking up the right tree. Eric

I am still trying to receive your attached pictures but may have to ask for them to be sent in a different form.

Leonard Augsburger <

Wed, Dec 30, 2009 at 3:53 PM

To: Eric Newman < Joel Orosz <

Eric-

See if this image works. Attached are four views of the same object.

If you can't view these I can send you a paper copy. There is also a copy online at:

http://forums.collectors.com/messageview.cfm?catid=26&threadid=755196

This particular block of timber is on loan to the US Mint from Independence Hall. It was originally donated to Independence Hall by Frank Stewart, who identified it as oak, from the rafters of the Coinage (Middle) building.

I would very much be interested in the Winterthur analysis. The timber was thought to be a hundred years old when used in 1792, putting its age today at about 300 years. Presumably Winterthur has similar samples from early Philadelphia construction to compare against.

Regards,

Len.

From:

Date: Wed, 30 Dec 2009 14:35:05 -0500

Subject: Timber

To: CC:

[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments

wood1_sm.jpg

49K





wood2_sm.jpg 45K



wood3_sm.jpg 52K



wood4_sm.jpg 53K

Wed, Dec 30, 2009 at 8:36 PM

Dear Eric:

I will piggyback on Len's response to agree that the analysis at Wintertur would be very exciting. All of our data on wood composition are essentially hearsay from Stewart--it would be great to have a scientific validation (or refutation) of Stewart's conclusions.

Very exciting stuff!

Warm regards,

Joel













First US Mint comments

3 messages



Fri, Jan 8, 2010 at 6:37 PM

Dear Joel and Len:

I just received word that Winterthur has discontinued its wood sampling department and has no one on its staff able to undertake such work. I tried to count the number of rings on my piece and it seems to be about 80. The bark side of the joist as well as the three split sides are covered with a black coating which was apparently from exposure to the atmosphere at the Mint.

In reading your book I have a goodwill suggestion to add a fact that is clearly set out in Stewart's book but apparently the original records have not been located. In 1795 and thereafter ground rent was paid on real estate occupied by the US MInt to The Institute for the Schooling of Blacks as well as School for the Education of negroes, etc under care of the people called Quakers. While you mention there were ground rents paid I think it will help pleased the public to show that blacks without cost were then be educated by the Quakers on the Mint's grounds. It is your call.

I am working on the Foreword a little.

Leonard Augsburger <		ı
To: Eric Newman <	Joel Orosz <	

Sat, Jan 9, 2010 at 10:24 PM

Eric-

Thanks for looking into the Winterthur possibility.

Regarding the ground rent, it was ultimately extinguished c. 1890. We found this note in the Stewart papers on our last visit --

"John L. Kates paid off the ground rent which was in existence for nearly one hundred years. It was last owned by a church whose members were colored. They obtained a good price for the ground rent when sold."

I attended George Kolbe's sale of the Stack library this afternoon. You will be interested to know that the Col. Green inventory records (lot 79) hammered at \$70K, and that the photographic record (lot 80) hammered at the same price. The rumor on the floor was that both lots went to a "buyer from Europe." I am sure you could have had either lot in the 1930s for a relative pittance!

Regards, Len.

From: Date: Fri, 8 Jan 2010 18:37:55 -0500 Subject: First US Mint comments

To: CC:

Dear Joel and Len:
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Sat, Jan 9, 2010 at 11:04 PM Joelorosz < Eric Newman < To: Leonard Augsburger <

Dear Eric:

You are quite right that we should specify the beneficiaries of the ground rent on the Mint property.

I have only one thing to add to Len's note (besides shaking my head in amazement at the amounts realized by the Col. Green material), and that is to say that we are delighted that you are working on the Foreword. We are in the process of sending the draft out to a few other readers right now, so your timing couldn't be more appropriate.

I hope 2010 is off to a roaring start for you.

Warm regards,

Joel



Pictures of the First US Mint

1 message

Leonard Augsburger <

Tue, Jan 12, 2010 at 6:28 PM

Gentlemen-

Review copies of "Pictures of the First Mint," by Joel Orosz & myself are in the mail.

The images for the book (not included in the review hardcopies) have all been uploaded to Photobucket and may be accessed at the link:

http://s188.photobucket.com/albums/z58/augsburg64/Pictures%20of%20the%20First% 20United%20States%20Mint/

The password is "Huling1792". Let me know if you have any problems.

I provided written directions for this along with the draft, but one reviewer reported that they did not work, and that the link above did.

Regards, Len.



Fwd: Foreword for your book

1 message

lo:

Mon, Jan 25, 2010 at 3:26 PM

From:

To:

Sent: 1/25/2010 2:24:23 P.M. Central Standard Time

Subj: Foreword for your book

Dear Joel:

Just a note to tell you that I have almost finished the Foreword for your book in handwritten form. I will then have it typewritten promptly.

I want you and Len to vigorously edit it to your satisfaction. Throw out any word or sentence or thought. Tell me to change or add anything. Lengthen it or shorten it or rearrange any part. I enjoyed preparing it.



Foreward received

2 messages

Leonard Augsburger < Mon, Feb 22, 2010 at 9:50 PM To: Eric Newman < Joel Orosz <

Eric-

We received your edits of Feb. 21st by fax.

These have been incorporated and the latest electronic version is attached. Many thanks for writing this.

I received the latest issue of the Asylum today - I am glad that you and David Fanning finally untangled the coin chart which you showed us when we visited. It is always nice to solve a mystery!

Regards, Len.

foreward_022110.doc 32K

Tue, Feb 23, 2010 at 1:28 PM Joelorosz < Eric Newman To: Leonard Augsburger <

Dear Eric:

I just want to add my thanks to Len's. Your foreword is exactly what we needed to introduce readers to the book, and it is an honor for us to have your name associated with ours. A copy is destined for the Newman Library just as soon as it is published!

Warm regards,

Joel

FOREWORD

Thomas Jefferson on December 15, 1775 seems to have written the earliest comment on the future coinage of a United States Mint, this being prior to the Declaration of Independence and while the Continental Congress was struggling to undertake some national control. His words were: "To expedite the striking of monies ordered by the Congress to be struck." The *Journal of the Continental Congress* reported these words to be in Jefferson's own handwriting. A committee had been selected to prepare an agenda for items to be considered during the 1775 Christmas holiday recess of the Continental Congress. Jefferson was placed on the committee and prepared thoughts for a program of action. The holiday recess never occurred because of unfinished work of the Congress and thus the committee never met. Yet Jefferson had initiated his hope and his specific intent for a national metallic coinage to be created. His early thinking was not in vain.

Jefferson continued to devote his energies for many of the following years to create a sound U.S. coinage, and when in 1789 he became U.S. Secretary of State under President George Washington he was selected to supervise the creation of the first United States Mint and received early and steady cooperation from Alexander Hamilton who became U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in 1789 and whose duties would otherwise have included such a mint.

The circulation of money in America under the control of combined British Colonial and American governing bodies during the period just prior to the American Revolution and continuing through the Revolution until the Treaty of Paris in 1783 was in total turmoil. The paper money issued by the American colonies, by the American states, and by the Continental Congress became the victim of inflation and ended up worthless. The specie in circulation was from many different foreign counties (primarily from colonial Spanish and Portuguese sources) and those Americans using such coinage needed to use visual identification of the insignia, size and denomination and then determine quality with respect to the weight and fineness of each piece presented. This included the problem of recognizing counterfeits and becoming aware of deliberate metal removal by filing and other means. The copper coins in American circulation were primarily counterfeit, short weight and/or debased British and Irish halfpence and farthings which had been imported mostly from Birmingham, England as a fraud on the American public. A trickle of 1773 Virginia copper halfpence struck at the English Royal (Tower) Mint circulated in the American South but the bulk of the coinage was melted or hoarded in Virginia after late delivery and value uncertainties.

There also was Imaginary Money used in five separate large American geographical areas, each area having a different ratio for its nominal pounds, shillings and pence to the Spanish Dollar or Piece of Eight Reals. Many transactions in this Imaginary Money were recorded by book entry on merchants' records. The value of Imaginary Money was published in almanacs, newspapers, broadsides, etc., to help the common people conduct transactions for necessities.

About July 1776 there appeared several varieties of Continental Currency experimental coins struck primarily in pewter and about the size of a Spanish Dollar. Some of these coins contained the initials E G (Elisha Gallaudet, an engraver of New York City). There is nothing known as to any authorization for them and there is no known written mention of their existence for almost a decade after their 1776 distribution. Their design and legends were copied from the February 17, 1776 fractional paper money authorized and issued by the Continental Congress. Whether any official documents covering this Continental Currency Coinage were lost remains a mystery up to the present time.

The thinking continued as to what to do about coinage for the United States. Robert Morris, as the U.S. Superintendent of Finance (1781-1784), recommended in 1782 a proposal using the basics of all of the American Imaginary Money systems as a common denominator for the parts of the "Spanish Dollar." In 1783 he arranged to have coined patterns made for that proposal using the legend NOVA CONSTELLATIO and denominations from 5 units up to 1000 units were struck in Philadelphia by Benjamin Dudley with participation by John Jacob Eckfeldt, the German immigrant machinist whose family dominated the future First United States Mint and beyond. The Morris thinking was considered so impractical that Jefferson, Hamilton and others determined to change it almost completely.

Then came a deluge of copper coinage for American use emitted as speculative ventures by a myriad of sources: In 1785 a New York City private firm in which Robert Morris was a silent partner introduced into circulation copper coinage about the size of a British halfpence, minted in England and copying the legend NOVA CONSTELLATIO. Then Vermont, Connecticut and New Jersey authorized private contractors to mint similar size copper pieces which carried their respective state names and this coinage continued through 1788. A secret mint called Machin's Mills on Orange Lake near Newburgh, New York was established and minted counterfeit British halfpence of various dates in 1787-1788. Unauthorized New York coppers with the legend NOVA EBORAC were minted in New Haven, Connecticut in 1787. Massachusetts authorized cents and half cents with its Commonwealth name on them and these were coined there in 1787-1788. The United States Congress in 1787 induced by bribery and corrupt political influence authorized a private contractor (James Jarvis) to mint copper coins known as FUGIO coppers, which weighed only about three-quarters of the Federal standard of 157.5 grains for one cent as previously set by a congressionally appointed "Grand Committee" acting from May 13, 1785 and thereafter. These FUGIO coppers were struck in New Haven, Connecticut in secrecy. There were also other small private mintages of coppers and experimental copper coinage with various American designs and legends. All of the foregoing copper coinages except those of Massachusetts were of less weight than the Federal standard provided for one cent.

The American use of foreign specie coins, Imaginary Money, and the proliferation of unreliable copper coinages resulted in an overwhelming stimulant for a prompt solution by the U.S. government to restore public confidence by stabilizing

money circulation. It became clear that it was critically important to establish a reliable United States Mint. The economic health of the American people depended on it.

Private contractors continued to seek authorization to strike coins for the United States. English minters in 1791 struck quantities of samples of WASHINGTON PRESIDENT copper ONE CENT pieces and in 1792 coined an improved design to include 13 stars. Peter Getz of Lancaster, Pennsylvania submitted 1792 half dollar size trial coinage with a numeric presidential legend G. WASHINGTON PRESIDENT I in accordance with pending congressional legislation which was immediately deemed unacceptable.

It was obvious that having gold and silver coinage minted in Europe was impractical because of the risk of sea transport to the United States. Copper coinage minted in England for the United States was somewhat practical because much copper was produced and refined there. When the First United States Mint was under construction in Philadelphia, quantities of copper were purchased from Swedish and English sources and the United States Mint advertised in a Philadelphia newspaper to buy copper. An English source thereafter furnished many copper planchets for the First United States Mint.

In the thinking for the development and operation of a United States Mint, many problems had to be solved. Sufficient water power was not available in Philadelphia or New York or in a future possibility of the new federal capital along the Potomac River. The advantage of the use of steam power was known in America from the successful Boulton & Watt private enterprise in Soho near Birmingham, England, but the Royal Mint in London had not introduced that type of energy. Steam power use in the United States was not then sufficiently developed. Therefore, the First United States Mint had to rely on the power of horses and the strength and physical coordination of men which although very burdensome had the virtue of reliability. With mechanical skills available the location of choice was Philadelphia.

Jefferson's hope and dream came true after about 18 years of the struggle and devotion of many. The coins minted at the First United States Mint are evidence of its achievement. The exciting historical detail of that establishment is outstandingly presented by the book which follows.

Eric P. Newman St. Louis, Missouri February, 2010





Confession

5 messages



Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 6:41 PM

Dear friends:

When I make a mistake I want to report it to those I furnished erroneous information. There are 15 links on the 1793 US chain cents not 14 as I said.. My eyes are not as sharp as they used to be. Perhaps I forgot how to count.

At least I was right when I said there were improperly 15 stars on the 1792 G. Washington. President. I. Getz pieces because there were only 14 states when they were coined.

Don't count me out yet.

Eric

Leonard Augsburger < To: Eric Newman < Joel Orosz <

Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 8:54 PM

Eric-

More likely you have a unique chain cent in your magnificent collection, which indeed has 14 links, and has gone uncatalogued all these years!

Many thanks for correcting your earlier statement on this.

Regards,

Len.

From:

Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2010 18:41:56 -0500

Subject: Confession

To: CC:

[Quoted text hidden]

=

Joelorosz < To: EricNumis < Co:

Mon, Mar 8, 2010 at 11:09 PM

Dear Eric:

Count you out? Hardly--we continue to count on you!

Should you no longer want that cent with the weak 15th link, I know of a very good potential home for it....

Seriously, Eric, thanks for forwarding the correction.

Warm regards,

Joel

Eric-

It is a lovely day here in Nantucket, where my wife & I are on vacation.

If you would like to have some "coin company" on Wednesday, we would be happy to come over.

Regards,

Len.

From:

Date: Mon, 8 Mar 2010 18:41:56 -0500

Subject: Confession

To: CC:

[Quoted text hidden]

=

To:

Tue, Jun 8, 2010 at 12:51 PM

Dear Len:

We plan to come to our home in Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard in late June for most of the summer. If you are still in or come back to Nantucket and can come to see us it would be a delight. Eric [Quoted text hidden]



Fwd: (no subject)

2 messages

•

Wed, Oct 6, 2010 at 4:45 PM

From:

To:

Sent: 10/6/2010 3:43:45 P.M. Central Daylight Time

Subj: Fwd: (no subject)

From:

To:

Sent: 10/6/2010 3:41:59 P.M. Central Daylight Time

Subj: (no subject)

Dear Len:

From copies of a number of e-mails which I received I learned for the first time that you had initiated the proposal of a medal for my 100th birthday. It was a surprise that had never previously even entered my mind. Your thoughtfulness in recommending this item is so overwhelming that I do plan to live long enough to make that date realistic and beyond.

I was astounded at the number of Rittenhouse members who subscribed to the idea when I received at least 15 approvals at the contribution level which was suggested.

I wish to write a letter of thanks to each of those whose participation I learned through e-mails; but if there are others who have indicated a desire to participate without my being informed, I would like to have their names and addresses. Please let me know if anyone else helped create the idea.

It has always been wonderful to work with you numismatically and that I hope will continue on a steady basis. I appreciate your unusual kindness as to the medal idea.

Eric

To: Eric Newman

Leonard Augsburger <

Wed, Oct 6, 2010 at 9:10 PM

Eric--

Much as I would like to take credit for this, it was actually Joel who raised the subject during the Rittenhouse meeting at the Boston ANA. I believe he had previously discussed the idea with Dick Johnson. John Adams subsequently made a call for subscribers and (mistakenly) gave me credit. Of course I enthusiastically support the idea and can not wait to see the finished product!

Regards,

Len.

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=		





Westwood / Hancock / Perkins pieces

2 messages

Leonard Augsburger < To: Eric Newman <

Thu, Oct 7, 2010 at 8:37 PM

Eric-

Joel indicated that you were looking for some photography assistance to help compare the various Westwood / Hancock / Perkins pieces, to look for possibly shared punches.

I took the liberty of contacting Jeremy Katz, who we used to photograph material at Independence Hall for our book.

Jeremy lives on the west coast but is willing to do the work for plane fare, which would be \$300-\$400. He is an MIT grad and expert coin photographer - just the person for the job. He will be away in the UK during November, but suggested 10/24 or 12/12 as possible dates to visit St. Louis.

There is a hidden agenda on my part, as I would very much like to look at the Liberty Seated coinage in your collection at the same time and have Jeremy photograph some of that as well, in particular the 1841 no drapery dime.

Regards,

Len.

=



Sat, Oct 9, 2010 at 2:38 PM

Dear Len:

I sincerely appreciate arranging a possible visit from Jeremy Katz and you for imaging and will have to postpone it for the present. I am not far enough in research on the subject to study its usefulness and needs. I have never had an answer as yet from John Kraljevich who wrote the article which started it all and to whom I have directed an inquiry. Let me study the matter for a while .Please thank Mr. Katz for his kindness and cooperation.

As far as your seated dime matter is concerned let me see what I have in my bank vault which you may want to see.

My best Eric





First Mint timber - the Stewart bench

2 messages

Leonard Augsburger < To: Eric Newman <

Joel Orosz <

Sat, Feb 5, 2011 at 1:53 PM

Eric-

I hope you have survived the great blizzard of 2011 - here in Chicago we still have a couple feet piled up and it seems it will remain that way for some time.

During our research on the First Mint book, we came across a bench constructed of first Mint timber, currently residing at the Gloucester County (NJ) Historical Society. This bench was constructed by the Frank H. Stewart Electric Company, ca. 1911, and bears a plaque to that effect. I have attached a picture. As you can see it is about 6' x 2' x 2'. Being of old growth timber it is extraordinarily heavy.

The Gloucester Historical Society is interested in deaccessioning the artifact, and has had it in storage for some time.

Joel & I made overtures to the ANA, and much to our surprise they were not interested, for reasons of exhibit space.

We naturally thought next of the Newman Museum. The concerns of the Gloucester Society are these:

- * They want to place the artifact in a museum where it will be exhibited
- * They want to place the artifact in a collection that is suited to the history of the object

If you have any interest, I can ask the Gloucester Society to contact you directly.

Regards,

Len.

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04_330_bench1.jpg 941K

0.

Sat, Feb 5, 2011 at 5:15 PM

Dear Len:

It was a pleasure to hear from you. The ice and sleet has resulted in quantities of bald eagles looking for fish in the Mississippi River in back of a dam as they always do in the midwinter but even that water is now clogged with ice.and fish are sparse. Some enterprising ornithologists brought purchased fish to a shore site and about 50 eagles promptly spied it with their amazing vision and assembled for the feast with more coming. The eagles were unconcerned about the human beings so long as they stayed about ten feet away.from the food.

As to the bench made out of Mint timbers you might suggest it to Library Company of Pennsylvania for use as a bench for people to sit on when reading or waiting. Then it would be in Philadelphia where the old Mint was and have a practical use. Also try the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences where old wood specimens are on hand. It is not a qualified historic object so it could be useful as interesting piece of practical furniture.

Even If my wife would approve its use in my museum the Mint connection would be too insignificant.

My very best to you.

Eric ..



1/22/2019 Gmail - 100!



Eric Newman <

100!

1 message

Leonard Augsburger < To: Eric Newman <

Mon, May 23, 2011 at 10:15 PM

Eric-

Best wishes on your 100th birthday. You are an example to us all.

I marvel at what you have accomplished with books and manuscripts, and suspect that if us youngsters were half as adept at the new technology we would be much further along. Future generations may look back and wonder why we couldn't produce more good research with all the tools at hand. Time has already spoken for your work, and quite well at that!

Have a wonderful day with your family.

Regards,

Len.



Visit to Martha's Vineyard

2 messages

Leonard Augsburger < Mon, Jul 15, 2013 at 10:39 PM To: Eric Newman <

Eric-

My wife & I will be in Martha's Vineyard from July 27 to July 31. If you and Evelyn would like some "coin company" we would be pleased to stop by while we are there.

Regards, Len.

Andy < Mon, Jul 15, 2013 at 11:40 PM Reply-To: Andy < To: Leonard Augsburger < Eric Newman < Cc: Linda Schapiro <

Len, I'm sure Eric & Evelyn will want you to stop by while you're on MV. I don't know if Eric will see your email, so I am sending a copy to my sister whose home is next door to my folks.

The best way to chat directly with my parents about your availability is to call them. Their number is Their address is #4 Quitsa Lane in Chilmark. They'll let you know what time and day work best for them.

I get back from Rome on the 27th, so let me know by then if arrangements have been made. If not, I'll jump into the matter further. Enjoy the summer.

Andy





FW: Donald Kagin Dissertation

1 message

Eric Newman <
To: Print <

Tue, Nov 19, 2013 at 9:06 PM

<-br><-br>------- Original message -------
Date:11/19/2013 8:04 PM (GMT-06:00)
<-br><-br><-br><-br><-br>Kagin Dissertation
<-br><-br>Eric-

I was able to locate the Kagin dissertation. I will print off a hardcopy for you and bring it next week.

In the meantime, you can access it via the link below if you want to see it now.

Congratulations on the Newman part II sale. EPNNES is going to be very busy trying to figure out what charities to support!

Regards, Len.

Date: Tue, 19 Nov 2013 16:58:42 -0600 Subject: Donald Kagin Dissertation From:

To:

Dear Leonard Augsburger,

The dissertation you requested is about 450 pages. Usually Union Institute & University would print it, but instead they sent us a link that will be live for thirty days.

http://cardcatalog.tui.edu/download/Kagin.pdf

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Candy Wheeler Interlibrary Loan Department Vernon Area Public Library

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Candy Wheeler Interlibrary Loan Department Vernon Area Public Library





RE: Fwd: Eric P. Newman biography

1 message

Eric Newman <		
To:		
Cc:		

Mon, Dec 9, 2013 at 12:57 PM

This is Andy, answering on Eric's behalf. Totally fine to cooperate with Len and the other biographers who have been working on this project (often at Cecil) for many months.

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Eric: You mentioned this biography to me. Is it ok for me to give them an interview? Bunny

From: To:

Sent: 12/8/2013 6:42:14 P.M. Central Standard Time

Subj: Eric P. Newman biography

Dear Tet-

I got your email address from John Kraljevich.

You may be aware that I, along with Roger Burdette and Joel Orosz, have been engaged by Heritage to write Eric P. Newman's biography. Over that last few months we've been interviewing Eric and digging through his (very voluminous) correspondence.

This story would not complete without your perspective, and I am hoping I could ask you a few questions by email or phone. For starters, can you identify the coins in the above picture?

Regards,

Len Augsburger.

=

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Regards, Len Augsburger.

_



RE: Fwd: Eric P. Newman biography

1 message

Eric Newman	<	
To:		
Cc:		

Mon, Dec 9, 2013 at 1:57 PM

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Regards,

Len Augsburger.



Your note of March 9, 2014

1 message



With respect to the three items I was able to patent and were assigned to Missouri Automatic Control Corporation. I want you to know that the Missouri Automatic Control Corporation was owned by White Rogers Electric Company when I worked for them in St. Louis during World War II. I have not heard of them since and presume they went out of business or were absorbed by another company.

Eric